(b) and (c) An amount of Rs. 57.48 lakhs and Rs. 51.18 lakhs has been sanctioned respectively for Gir (East) and Gir (West) FDA projects, out of which an amount of Rs. 46.00 lakhs and Rs. 41.00 lakhs have been released till date to the Forest Development Agencies of Gir (East) and Gir (West) respectively.

(d) Funds are released to FDA projects on receipt of appropriate proposals alongwith satisfactory utilization of the funds released earlier and other requisite documents like progress report, audit report etc. The release is further subject to availability of fund under the National Afforestation Programme Scheme during the financial year.

Cauvery eco-system

2698. SHRIMATI KANIMOZHI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has undertaken any comprehensive study on the damage caused by polluting industrial units to the Cauvery eco-system;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps being taken by Government to make the river pollution free?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) and (b) Discharges from Industries are monitored by the Central Pollution Control Board as well as State Pollution Control Boards in accordance with the environmental laws. As per the information furnished by the Karnataka State Pollution Control Board, no indusry is discharging effluents into the river Cauvery in Karnataka. The Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board (TNPCB) is monitoring the Cauvery River water quality at 16 locations under Monitoring of Indian National Aquatic Resources programme and 4 locations under the Global Environmental Monitoring System. In addition, TNPCB has sanctioned a project to study the Cauvery River water quality through colleges of reputed universities.

(c) As per the information available from the TNPCB, water intensive activities such as textile dyeing and tannery are located predominantly along the Cauvery river. In order to prevent the pollution of Cauvery river and its tributaries, the Honourable High Court of Madras ordered that all the tannery and textile dyeing units have to implement zero liquid discharge system comprising reverse osmosis plant with reject management for recovery and reuse of water and salt in their industrial processes. The Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board has been monitoring the functional aspects of the said industries and necessary action is taken against erring industries in accordance with the law. Further, pollution abatement works in river Cauvery due to domestic sewage are implemented under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of National River Conservation Plan. The Plan covers pollution abatement works in five towns of Karnataka and nine towns of Tamil Nadu.

Fishermen under the custody of Sri Lanka

2699. DR. V. MAITREYAN: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of fishermen of Tamil Nadu who have been detained by the Sri Lankan authorities as of December, 2007;

(b) whether it is a fact that without any violation of the territorial waters, they are detained and ill-treated by the Sri Lankan Naval authorities;

(c) if so, the action that is being taken up with the Sri Lankan authorities to get them released on priority;

(d) whether it is also a fact that they are harassed as if they are terrorists or their supporters, by the Sri Lankan authorities;

(e) if so, in what manner Government is going to take up their cause with the authorities;

(f) whether Government intends to impose severe punishment on the offenders; and

(g) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) As on December, 2007, there was no bona fide Indian fisherman in Sri Lankan custody. However, there were 13 Indian fishermen in Sri Lankan custody for smuggling narcotics or for transporting Sri Lankan refugees.

(b) to (g) Government have always taken up on a priority basis the question of the safety of our fishermen with Sri Lanka. Whenever Indian fishermen along with their boats have been apprehended by Sri Lankan authorities, Government have intervened and got them released and repatriated to India. Incidents of firing on or apprehension of our fishermen by the Sri Lankan Navy have taken place in Sri Lankan waters, close to their shores. While it is important for our fishermen to respect the International Maritime Boundary Line (IMBL), especially keeping in mind the on-going operations in Sri Lanka, we have impressed on the Sri Lankan Navy to act with restraint and for our fishermen to be treated in a humane manner.

Public resentment in Tibet

†2700. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:
SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that consequent upon the recent public resentment in Tibet people in many countries of the world had demonstrated in public support;

(b) if so, whether representatives of the Government of China had resorted to inhuman treatment with the Government representatives of India protesting these public demonstrations; and

(c) if so, the facts thereof and the steps taken by Government of India in protest of such inhuman treatment?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (c) Government are aware of public demonstrations in several countries around the world in response to the recent developments in Lhasa. Government are distressed by reports of the unsettled situation and violence in Lhasa, and by the deaths of innocent people. Government hope that all those involved will work to improve the situation and remove the causes of such trouble in Tibet, which is an autonomous region of China, through dialogue and non-olent means.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.